

ALONG the HILLTOPS

THE STORY OF THE SUMMIT ROAD





one man's dream

Harry G. Ell was a man with an idea . . . and for more than thirty years of his life he worked to fulfil it.

His dream was a Summit Road on the Port Hills of Christchurch . . . a road to serve trampers and motorists, a road to give to the people, whatever their station, the glory of the outdoors and the magnificence of the views below them.

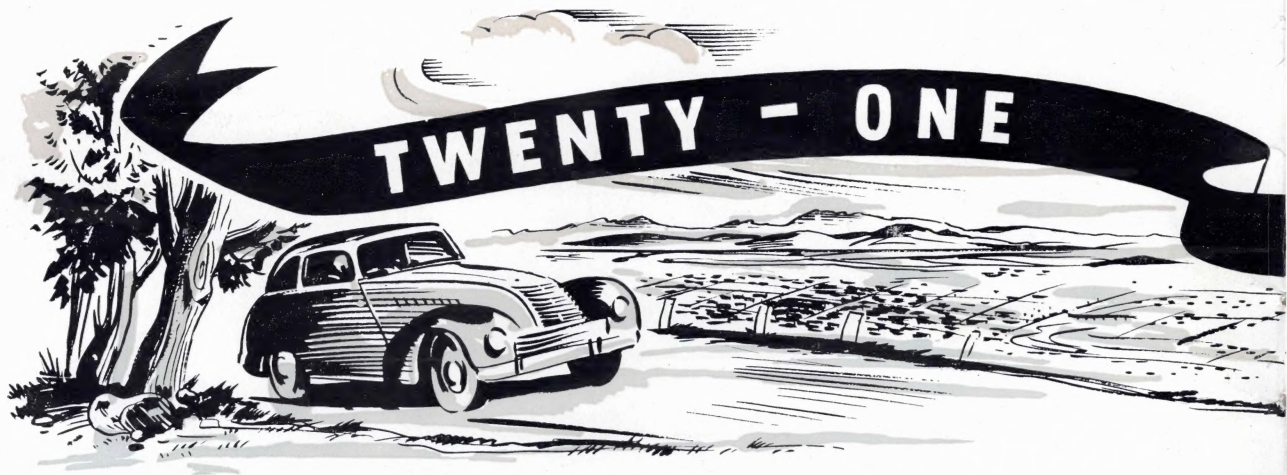
Along that road he planned there should be rest houses, places of unusual design, where those who walked or rode could find shelter and refreshment.

The task Harry Ell set himself was a difficult one. There was apathy and tribulation, but, by the time of his death in 1934, much of the road and three of the rest houses were completed.

The Summit Road stands to-day as a fulfilment of one man's dream . . . and a challenge to us, the inheritors, to see that its beauty is maintained and where possible, enhanced.

The Sign of the Takahe

is one of the four rest houses planned by the late Mr. H. G. Ell. From this unusual and attractive lounge, visitors may look out across the Canterbury Plains.



This page sponsored by Para Rubber Co. Ltd.

★ That is SUMNER below. It is a suburb of Christchurch and a particularly popular place on a summer's day. Pegasus Bay sweeps away beyond . . . to the snow-capped ranges in the north.



Each turn in the Summit Road brings new delight to the eye . . .

unforgettable pictures of mountain, plain, harbour and open sea.

★ Look down now on LYTTELTON, port of Christchurch. That is where the first Canterbury settlers landed in 1850. By 1867, a rail tunnel to Christchurch had been completed. Nowadays, the modern harbour handles the greatest volume of shipping in the South Island.

This page sponsored by Marathon Rubber Footwear Ltd.





★ Nestled in the hill below us are rich fertile valleys, where flowers, fruit and vegetables are grown for the city markets . . . That is HOROTANE VALLEY in the top photograph; the other shows the HEATHCOTE VALLEY. You can see the railway line running up toward the tunnel entrance.

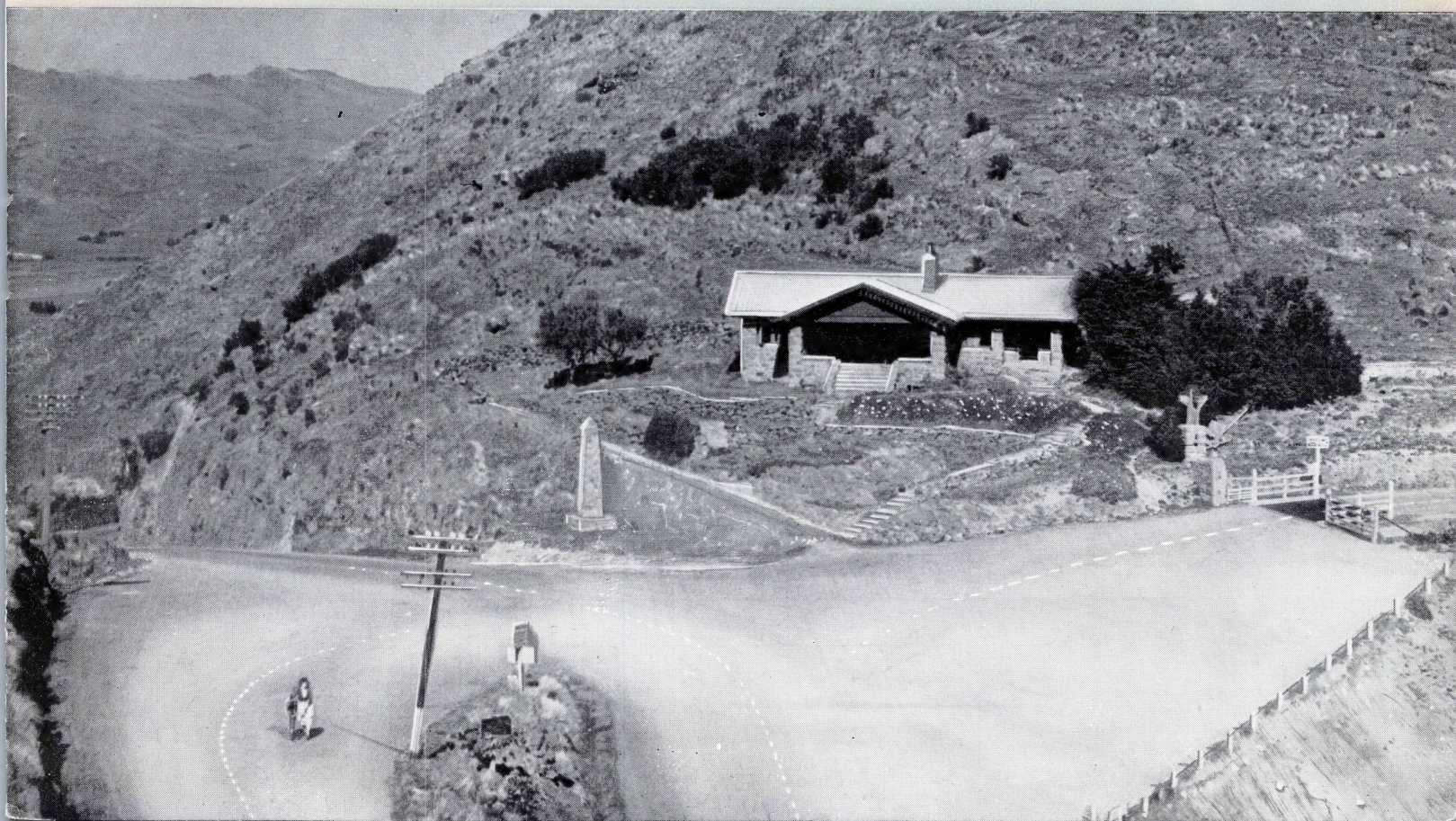
This page sponsored by Atlas Rubber Co. Ltd.





★ There's tranquility in this view of LYTTTELTON HARBOUR from the top of Dyer's Pass. That is QUAIL ISLAND with the cross of trees on it. The photograph below shows the SIGN OF THE KIWI, another of the rest houses envisaged by the late Mr. H. G. Ell.

This page sponsored by Cotton Bros. Ltd.



PANORAMIA

showing the points of interest
on the Summit Road from
Gebbies Pass to Evans Pass







★ Restful, sheltered GOVERNORS BAY lies below—it's a popular retreat from city hustle. In the bottom photograph, we are further up the harbour again. You can see the head of the harbour at Teddington in the background.

This page sponsored by Midland Motorways Services Ltd.



★ *They passed this way*

This memorial stands at the top of the Bridle Path, the track by which the pioneers made their way from Lyttelton to the plains.

VICTORIA PARK is a favoured picnic spot. From there, you can look across the trees to the wide stretch of the plains and the snow-covered skyline of the Southern Alps beyond.

This Page Sponsored by Louis J. Spence Ltd





The
Summit Road
Scenic Society
and
the Future

"Out of an intense and inborn love for the beautiful forest and plant life of this country, I have worked unceasingly for the setting aside and protection of all the remaining areas of bush which this road will make accessible to the people."

Those were the words of Harry Ell of the Summit Road; words which have now found new life in the Summit Road Scenic Society; an organisation formed in 1948 under the sponsorship of the Canterbury Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Many leading citizens of Christchurch have joined together to ensure that the magnificent asset of the Summit Road is maintained and improved.

Already much has been done. The Society has sought and received the co-operation of local bodies, schools, business firms and other organisations. Trees and shrubs have been planted at various points along the road.

There is yet much to be done. Many areas are planned for planting, with every care being taken that there is no marring of the views. Nor will outcrops of rock, in themselves things of beauty, be excluded from the landscape picture.

In other ways, too, the Summit Road Scenic Society plans to preserve and improve the highway and its surroundings. It will work to ensure that local bodies, private owners and members of the general public understand and respect the beauty of the hills. It will work tirelessly to see that the bush is preserved, walking tracks maintained, seats provided, buildings repaired, weeds destroyed. The tasks are many but the reward for us all is rich.

A certain amount can be achieved with words; a great deal more with money. Trees and shrubs can be bought and planted each year . . . for many years.

With your support the Summit Road can be preserved—and improved—as a magnificent playground highway for this and succeeding generations.

*The Publication of this Brochure
has been made possible
by the
co-operation
of the
following advertisers*

LICHFIELD SHIRTS LTD.
CALDER, MACKAY CO. LTD.
MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
ANDREWS & BEAVEN LTD.
PATTISON EDE CO. LTD.
SCOTT'S GARAGE
HAY'S LTD.
COULLS SOMERVILLE WILKIE LTD.
PARA RUBBER CO. LTD.
MARATHON RUBBER FOOTWEAR LTD.
ATLAS RUBBER CO. LTD.
COTTON BROS. LTD.
MIDLAND MOTORWAYS SERVICES LTD.
LOUIS J. SPENCE LTD.

PUBLISHED FOR

The Summit Road Scenic Society

213 MANCHESTER STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

Right: Looking from the lounge of the Sign of the Takahe into the tearoom.

Below: A general view of the Sign of the Takahe building, with the main entrance on the right.



